

REFERENCE TITLE: Buffalo Soldiers recognition

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2007

## HCR 2047

Introduced by  
Representatives Burns J, Alvarez, Campbell CL, McClure, Senators Bee,  
Landrum Taylor: Arzberger

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
DESIGNATING 2007 AS THE YEAR OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1       Whereas, after the Civil War, the United States faced the need for a  
2 larger "peacetime military" to occupy the South and protect settlers on the  
3 western frontier. In the summer of 1866, the United States Congress passed  
4 legislation establishing a peacetime military; and

5       Whereas, before the legislation was passed, a hotly debated issue  
6 concerned the inclusion of African-Americans in the regular Army. Some  
7 politicians made the then radical suggestion that the Army fully integrate  
8 African-Americans into its ranks. Other politicians wanted the Army to  
9 remain white-only. They eventually agreed to maintain the status quo and  
10 continue placing African-American recruits in segregated units. A provision  
11 of the 1866 legislation created six regiments of African-American troops,  
12 four infantry and two cavalry, of approximately one thousand men each; and

13       Whereas, in August 1866, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> cavalries were organized. The  
14 9<sup>th</sup> cavalry was in Greenville, Louisiana, with most of the original recruits  
15 from near New Orleans and Louisville. The 10<sup>th</sup> cavalry was at Fort  
16 Leavenworth, Kansas. Many of the recruits in both units were freed slaves  
17 from the north. The primary mission assigned to these African-American  
18 troops was to combat the Native American tribes caught in the westward  
19 expansion of the United States and to escort the tribes to the reservations;  
20 and

21       Whereas, the nickname "Buffalo Soldier" was bestowed on the troops by  
22 the Native Americans as an attestation to their valor in battle. The buffalo  
23 was a sacred animal to the Native Americans, and they would not bestow its  
24 name on the soldiers unless they were worthy adversaries, fighting  
25 ferociously to the end and living up to their motto "Ready and Forward". The  
26 proud acceptance of the name "Buffalo Soldier" by the African-American  
27 soldiers was a badge of honor and pride for the troops; and

28       Whereas, the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to the Great Plains along the  
29 Rio Grande, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Colorado and into the Dakotas.  
30 The duties of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. cavalries included guarding the mail and  
31 escorting and guarding stagecoaches, cattle drives, railroad crews and  
32 surveyors. They built roads and telegraph lines, mapped and explored,  
33 including mapping vast territories in Arizona and New Mexico marking water  
34 holes. They played a major part in building the west and making it safe for  
35 the westward expansion; and

36       Whereas, in July 1885, the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry moved west into Arizona. After  
37 arriving, troops of the regiment were dispersed throughout the area to cover  
38 as much territory as possible. These troops were stationed at Whipple  
39 Barracks, Fort Grant, Fort Thomas and Fort Apache; and

40       Whereas, in 1913, the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers were sent to Fort  
41 Huachuca and remained there for almost twenty years. They joined General  
42 John J. Pershing in the 1916 expedition into Mexico and during World War I,  
43 they were assigned the mission of guarding the United States-Mexico border;  
44 and

1       Whereas, Second Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, a member of the 10<sup>th</sup>  
2 Cavalry, was the first African-American graduate of the U.S. Military  
3 Academy, West Point, Class of 1877. Lieutenant Flipper excelled in  
4 Engineering, Law, French and Spanish. After dismissal from the Army, Henry  
5 O. Flipper went on to attain recognition and respect as a surveyor and in  
6 1890, he opened his own civil mining engineering office in Nogales, Arizona.  
7 Joseph S. Flipper II, the grand-nephew of Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, has  
8 lived in Phoenix since 1945. He has had a long and distinguished teaching  
9 career and is an active member of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter  
10 of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Horse Cavalry Association; and

11     Whereas, in 1994, the Arizona Legislature passed and the Governor  
12 signed House Joint Resolution 2001, designating a portion of state route 90  
13 as the Buffalo Soldier Trail; and

14     Whereas, on July 25, 1992, General Colin Powell, then Chairman of the  
15 Joint Chiefs of Staff, dedicated the Buffalo Soldiers Monument at Fort  
16 Leavenworth, Kansas, the birthplace of one of the regiments. The monument  
17 stands as a well-deserved tribute to the soldiers for their continued  
18 excellence and contributions to this state and nation over the years.  
19 Despite prejudice in and out of the military and being allocated the worst  
20 horses, clothing and equipment, these outstanding individuals earned more  
21 Congressional Medals of Honor and had the lowest desertion rate of any unit  
22 in the Army.

23 Therefore

24 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the  
25 Senate concurring:

26     1. That the Legislature recognize the State of Arizona as one of the  
27 Frontier Homes of the Buffalo Soldier.

28     2. That the Legislature recognize the contributions made by the  
29 Buffalo Soldiers to this country and state.

30     3. That the Legislature designates 2007 as "The year of the Buffalo  
31 Soldier".

32     4. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
33 of this Resolution to the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter of the 9<sup>th</sup> and  
34 10<sup>th</sup> Horse Cavalry Association and to the Arizona Historical Society.